

**REMARKS**

Claims 3-7, 9-11, 14-17, 19 and 21-25 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of January 15, 2004, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

**Claim Objections**

Claim 9 is objected to being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 14 and 23 are objected to because of informalities.

Claim 22, from which claim 9 depends, has now been amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions. It is believed that claim 22, and therefore claim 9, is now allowable. Claims 14 and 23 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112**

Claims 3-7, 10-11, 19, 22 and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The

Examiner alleges that the term "precursor" is indefinite and suggests replacing it with "a compound that forms 2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-1-piperidinyloxy under the instant reaction conditions." Claims 3-5 and 19 are said to lack antecedent basis for certain recitations.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. The term "precursor" has been replaced by -- a compound that forms 2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-1-piperidinyloxy under the instant reaction conditions--. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to recite "step f" rather than "step c." Claims 3 and 19 have been amended to recite "the nonhydrolyzable group" rather than substituent.

**Allowed Claims**

Claims 15-17 and 21 are allowed.

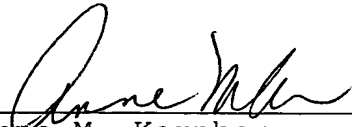
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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